

## Reinette Senum for Governor: Contract with Californians

*“Artist Gottarda Piazzoni was asked, ‘And what is your religion?’  
Piazzoni hesitated, then replied, ‘California.’”*

--Crocker Art Museum curatorial notes,  
Sacramento, California

In 1988, the US Congress finally recognized the fundamental role that the principles of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy — the Great Law of the Iroquois — played in the creation of the US Constitution. The Contract with Californians has been crafted in the same spirit, but with the re-inclusion of two of the most critical principles from the Great Law of the Iroquois that were not included in the Constitution: the Seventh Generation Principle and the Wisdom of Grandmothers and Elders Principle.

My Contract with Californians embodies and celebrates the inherent value of always making decisions with an eye to the next seven generations and with an ear to our elders and the last seven generations. Focusing on what is best for our children and using the basic wisdom that we have acquired over generations provides us with the means to step out of our current destructive trajectory, set aside our differences, and realign our priorities.

Under my Contract with Californians, our children — the future of our state — are at the center of our wheel, but every spoke in the wheel counts. The Contract with Californians should inspire us to consider what is possible when we work together to rebound from Newsom’s reign of terror as a California that our children, and the children of our children, can thrive in. The Contract has seven sections:

- 1. Natural Resources Stewardship**
- 2. Food and Farms**
- 3. Common Sense Education**
- 4. Real Public Health and Individual Wellbeing**
- 5. Durable Economic Growth**
- 6. Vibrant Communities**
- 7. New Civic Engagement**

This is a living document, one that is intended to expand during this campaign, based upon citizen wisdom and stakeholder input throughout California. This collaborative process ensures we stay on task and target to meet our goal of rebuilding the California dream for all of us.

### **1. Natural Resources Stewardship**

Nothing else matters if we don’t get real about the scale of the environmental challenges we face. Everything else in this plan -- everything else that any of us want to do with our lives -- will become mostly unattainable luxuries if we do not get honest about the numerous ways in which we are killing ourselves with the ongoing staggering abuse of our natural world, on which we all depend upon for

life. Clean and healthy water and clean living soils and the flora and fauna they support are not choices or options that one can do without; they are literally the basis of all life.

The degree to which we have poisoned the natural world is the degree to which we have poisoned ourselves. We are our own worst existential threat. And we need to stop lying to ourselves about this fundamental truth if we are to have any hope of effectively addressing it, and handing a good green planet over to our children.

For many years Californians have claimed resource conservation is of paramount concern. We have saved the whales, identified every low hanging fruit, and have continuously fought over individual projects: the roadways, the stadiums, the dams, etc. All the while, we have managed to pave over our precious farmland, lost thousands of species, dirtied and depleted our soil, water, air, and contaminated our food. It's clear in California, all the best laid plans and money don't add up to anything if we don't have a transparent, measurable, tangible, overall goal that sets a clear bar, is easy to manage, and involves citizens at all levels.

### **a. Restore California Forests, Reduce Catastrophic Fire Risk**

For the last five years, California has experienced an increasingly hellish fire season landscape. During this time, our state has increased expenditures to *fight* fires but we have failed to get serious in a meaningful way about *fire prevention*: brush clearing, human structure hardening, and cutting the frequency of fire ignition at roadway – wilderness boundary areas.

We now know that somewhere between 70% and 80% of wildfires in California start at roadway – wilderness boundaries. Mitigating that single challenge would make a significant dent in our overall problem. Yet the political will in Sacramento is still overwhelmingly in support of the status quo. What we are doing is not working; we need a different paradigm.

There are multiple key stakeholders in California who are ready to change our approach. But these interests are not organized in any kind of impactful political coalition. That needs to change. The entire political landscape and on-the-ground action in the area of California wildfires could be transformed with a new political alignment.

There are also efforts in other places to draw from, such as New Mexico's Rio Grande Water Fund program. Through monitoring and adaptive management strategies, we can reduce catastrophic fires while ensuring clean, safe water for generations to come. Creating a statewide Water and Fire Fund would promote financial and governance mechanisms to engage public, private, and civil society stakeholders, ultimately contributing to water and fire security through solutions grounded in nature-based infrastructure and sustainable management of our California natural and working landscapes.

### **b. Expand California's Healthy Soils Initiative**

California's Healthy Soils Initiative is a collaboration of state agencies and departments, led by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, to promote the development of healthy soils on California's farm and ranch lands. Innovative farm and ranch management practices

contribute to building adequate soil organic matter that can increase carbon sequestration and reduce overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

We need to dramatically increase the budget for the Healthy Soils Initiative. Growing healthy living dirt is the critical key in tackling climate change so this program needs to be made truly essential to California's strategy to permanently sequester carbon in natural and working lands. Healthy, organic soils trap and store huge amounts of GHGs, keeping them out of the atmosphere. When managed properly, even during times of fire, these soils do not release the stored GHGs. Living soils must become a centerpiece of the world's strategy for mitigating the worst impacts of climate change, and California can lead the way.

### **c. Ensure Fair and Equitable Implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)**

San Joaquin Valley farmers are facing a loss of at least half a million acres of arable farmland due to reduced water supplies caused by implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Sitting directly under the root zones of many farms in the Valley are millions of acre feet of brine, trapped in vast perched aquifers.

While it is essential that we implement a sustainable method for managing all of our limited water supplies (surface and below ground), it is equally essential that we ensure an affordable and reliable water supply for our people and farms. Many current proposals simply make no sense — economically or environmentally. We need to stop fighting and start being smart with our money and with our very limited water resources.

For example, we need to stop fighting over whether it makes sense to build more surface reservoirs. Surface reservoirs do not create one additional drop of water. We do not have a lack of storage capacity. We have vast storage potential underground that is currently unused. Our problem is a lack of sufficient sources of high-quality water when and where it is most needed.

We must stop stealing money from our children's futures by moving around the same inadequate water supplies that are already over-allocated. We must greatly expand private and public investments in recycling, conservation, water efficiency, and smart methods for treating irrigation runoff, wastewater and inland surface and below-ground sources of brine to create new localized sources of high-quality water.

### **d. Ban Toxic Chemicals**

In May of 2019, Gavin Newsom announced that the state would ban the use of a toxic pesticide, chlorpyrifos, shown to cause brain damage at even low levels of exposure. While this was one strong positive step, there is much more to be done.

We are allowing our children and ourselves to literally be poisoned by companies that do not care one whit about our health or wellbeing. Our government is doing nothing to stop the sale of deadly dangerous poisons at every neighborhood hardware store and garden nursery in the state.

We must take the common-sense steps of banning glyphosates, neonicotinoid insecticides, drift prone soil fumigants such as 1,3-dichloropropene (known as Telone), and chloropicrin. We must ensure that the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has the independence, staffing and oversight authority to stop the introduction of toxic substances into our state.

In addition, by addressing our toxic chemical usage on the environment and reducing the human and ecological damage, we will also assist in rebuilding our pollinator population that continues to decline because of such chemicals.

#### **e. Increase Pollinator Populations**

Pollinators are a keystone species and are holding together California's environment. Pollinators include winged and terrestrial insects, birds, bats, and other animals responsible for pollinating agricultural flowering food plants. Unfortunately, crop homogenization, pesticides, and loss of flower resources, along with increase of electromagnetic frequencies have decimated many of our pollinators. Nearly all species of pollinators are in rapid decline and, in many cases, total population collapse. This includes both native and managed pollinators. It's imperative we rebuild the pollinator population if Californians want to continue to enjoy the rich biodiversity and food we have come to know and love. The future of food, and our lives, literally depends on it.

California's agricultural abundance includes more than 400 commodities. Over a third of the country's vegetables and two-thirds of US fruits and nuts are grown in California. California is the leading state for farm cash receipts, accounting for over 13% of the nation's total agricultural value. None of this can happen without pollinators. Almond crops alone require 1.8 million honey bee colonies.

The beauty of this specific challenge is that every Californian can participate in the solution. No matter where a Californian resides, each and every citizen can play an active role in returning our pollinator population to healthy levels. This is a low-hanging attainable goal that all ages can engage in. Whether you have a yard, or simply a balcony with potted plants, this is where Californian's can quickly and easily engage in an obtainable solution.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Environmental Farming and Innovation has been focused on increasing the pollinator populations in conjunction with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. They have the Bee Safe program, protecting against invasive species, and providing "hospitality" to honey bees such as water stations, to help honey bees to get where they are going. These departments have been conducting these programs in partnership with county agriculture commissioners, who are boots on the ground and work most directly with the public. Currently they have an app to identify bees, and have an important bee-mapping program to reduce toxic pesticide exposure. The Healthy Soils initiative has an incentive program for cover crops, hedgerows, riparian buffer strips to increase forage and habitat coverage for pollinators.

It is imperative we beef up these programs and engage the public at large: More funding, public outreach, practical information, pollinator conservation, and educational tools for citizens will be at the forefront of this administration. Not only for the sake of the pollinators, but to ensure our food supply and biodiversity throughout California.

## **f. Deploy Calaveras County's Model CHIPS Program**

Under my administration, the state will finance programs modeled after the Calaveras Healthy Impact Product Solutions (CHIPS) Program. Championed by former Calaveras County Supervisor Steve Wilensky, the vision for CHIPS has been to catalyze a local, self-sustaining economy based on integrated, holistic forest restoration and management. This organization has brokered contracts and agreements with private landowners, local fire-safety councils, tribal partners, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and a number of national forests and parks.

The concept, which involves a range of stakeholders and an active acknowledgement of the ecological and social history of each area and region, has been gaining traction in certain parts of the state. In response, some local logging companies are starting to fine-tune equipment for forest thinning, rather than more intensive treatments. We will seek to do everything possible to expand this program for statewide application, with dedicated Secretary-level commitments of resources.

## **g. Feed-in Tariffs for Distributed Renewable Energy**

California needs to move beyond Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) and finally fully embrace Feed-in Tariffs across every jurisdiction. It's time to end the power-provider monopoly and require utility providers to support the full deployment of all our tremendous renewable energy generating potential down to the neighborhood level. Now more than ever, Californians deserve a decentralized power grid that includes solar PV, solar thermal, geothermal, wind, wave, piezoelectric and other energy systems.

Property owners in California who want to install their own renewable generation systems should be incentivized to install as much capacity as possible — by getting paid for excess energy that they produce. The only way we can do this is by moving beyond net-metering and CCA programs and adopting a statewide Feed-in Tariff program.

I will appoint new directors to the California Public Utilities Commission to ensure that this will be a top priority of the state. This is no small undertaking and will require significant investment in distributed grid capacity and new neighborhood and community networks. We must do this; our energy future depends on it.

## **2. Food and Farms**

We are losing tens of thousands of acres of farmland every year to development. Additionally, over the last decade we have lost hundreds of thousands of acres to drought (salting up of soils and lack of irrigation water). Due to SGMA implementation we are now facing another half-million acres being fallowed. We can't continue to take out millions of acres of the most productive farmland in the world and expect to continue to grow our food. In addition, we are losing our topsoil, family farms are being bought up, farmers can't afford their inputs, and older farmers are not being replaced by the next generation.

Farms are a major part of our economy, our culture, and our way of life. Agriculture is not a threat to our environment, and farmers are some of our best allies to natural resources stewardship.

This campaign is an opportunity to gather forward-thinking and wide-minded farmers, share technical tools and best practices, implement carbon-focused farming, repair California's topsoil, reduce pesticide usage, and increase pollinator populations. We should facilitate every opportunity to fortify the vast swaths of common ground shared by environmentalists and farmers.

Agriculture generates 9% of California's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), which makes it the state's fourth-largest emitter, after transportation, industry and buildings. But agriculture is the only one of these sectors with absolutely tremendous potential to also remove carbon dioxide and other GHGs from the atmosphere.

Science shows that carbon-focused farming can also improve crop yields and livestock health, increase crop resilience to drought, reduce erosion and flooding, improve soil water-holding capacity and allow farmers to cut back on the use of synthetic fertilizers. Over time, these practices can lower costs for farmers, and by building resilience in crops, they may also reduce federal crop insurance payouts, saving taxpayers money. Keeping the land resilient and productive is a common sense good investment. It is also essential to keeping family farmers on their land, and continuing to feed California and the rest of the nation for generations to come.

#### **a. Keep Families on Their Farms**

We have to do everything possible to help keep the family farmer alive and thriving in California. I want to hear from all family farmers in California about how we can develop legislative proposals within the first 100 days of my administration to support thriving family farms across this state for at least seven generations, if not in perpetuity.

#### **b. Increase and Incentivize Carbon Sink Programs**

A carbon sink is any reservoir, natural or otherwise, that absorbs more carbon than it releases, and thereby lowers the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. Focus and funding should be increased around projects related to grasslands, agricultural lands, forests, freshwater lakes and wetlands, coastal ecosystems, marshes and swamps, and coral reefs.

#### **c. Increase and Incentivize Biochar Programs**

Biochar is a charcoal-like substance made by burning organic material from agricultural and forestry wastes. Biochar offers an extremely cost-effective solution for rebuilding the basis of new healthy topsoil, to bind toxins and prevent their leaching into surface and groundwater.

Biochar can be applied to the soil in oil and gas production areas to decontaminate the soil. Hydrocarbons and VOCs are captured and sequestered in the biochar and broken down to non-toxic levels by all the embedded microbes.

By sequestering the heavy metals in the soil surrounding abandoned mines, biochar prevents these contaminants from leaching into local water supplies. Secondly, biochar quickly facilitates the reestablishment of vegetation on this typically sterile ground with improved soil fertility and reduced erosion. Moreover, biochar can accomplish mine reclamation quickly and at a mere fraction of the cost of removing tailings to hazardous waste landfills.

#### **d. Landfill Diversion**

In building soil health, California can also make use of wasted resources bound for the landfill. Currently, some 12 million tons of compostable or mulch-able organic waste is sent to California landfills annually, where it generates methane and other public health threats that must be managed or mitigated. The Healthy Soils Initiative presents an opportunity to return those organic materials back to the soil, where they can serve as a resource for California's critical agricultural economy.

### **3. Restore Common Sense Education**

California's school-aged children have lost one year of instruction and weathered as of yet untold mileage in trauma from isolation, lack of stimulation, and fear protocols. The American Medical Association reports that America's school-aged children have lost 5 million years of life expectancy as a result of school closures for the first 12 months of pandemic protocols.

California's children have been subject to a program of state-sanctioned child abuse that needs to stop immediately. Children belong in school, educators belong with students, and we must get on with the business of learning. The vast majority of children face zero danger or risk from this virus. According to the CDC, children under 10 survive this virus with a staggering success rate of 99.998%. Most adults under age 60 (i.e., almost all teachers in California) have a similarly terrific survival rate of 99.6%. Note that these survival rates are without any vaccines. As things stand now, nearly all of California's school aged children qualify for Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) to mitigate the emotional disturbance facilitated by the state's policies. This is not a tenable solution, however, so a thoughtful holistic approach to educational solutions is needed.

#### **a. In-Person Learning**

All of California's schools and child-centered programs need to commence in-person and on-campus learning immediately. According to the CDC, the leading cause of death among California's school-aged children is now suicide and drug overdoses. Teachers and unions that balk at returning to campus will be encouraged to change lanes and we will hire new, less expensive teachers.

If you are not interested in doing the business of educating the millions of California students languishing behind screens or worse, with a virus floating around with a survival rate for kids that is

comparable to or better than the common flu, then you may be in the wrong profession. While most teachers' risk of dying from this virus is also comparable to the common flu, the response to the virus being forced on our children is literally causing them to kill themselves at record rates.

We have also absolutely devastated hundreds of thousands of families who depend on in-person learning for their children in order to be able to conduct all of the business of their complete family lives. Distance learning is wildly inadequate and unacceptable. It is in no way comparable to in-person learning and it does not solve any of the related problems or challenges for parents and families of school-age children who need to have their kids back in school full-time immediately.

### **b. Real School Choice**

We need to immediately remove all of the pre-existing funding formulas and replace them with new, common-sense guidelines:

- No more than 10% of total district budgets should be spent on administration;
- No more than 5% of total budget should be spent on technology;
- Max student/teacher ratios need to be brought down (20 students per teacher K-12); and
- We need to dramatically expand neighborhood schools — including charters, private schools, home school pods, all of the above — so that we give parents real school choice.

We also need to immediately work toward true funding parity among districts. I propose that we use a 10-year average of spending per pupil from the top 10 districts in the state as a standard and then figure out how we are going to “true-up” all other districts to meet this average; cannabis is a likely source of revenue, as is a resource extraction fee. California students and their parents and guardians will have real choices among and between a diversity of schools that are operating at baseline funding parity.

### **c. Education Restoration**

Restoration is the operative word for tackling California's unique challenges as they relate to students and education. Once upon a time, California guaranteed 40% of the yearly budget be allocated to education. We had the best education system in the world. We need to restore:

- a robust and stable budget for education for ALL of California's children;
- the precautionary principle: radical changes to the lives of students should be avoided at all costs unless proven safe for all students;
- in-person learning;
- standards-based Physical Education and outdoor education programs across all grades K-12 to help mitigate some of the effects of the last year;
- standards-based Arts Education across all grades K-12 to help mitigate some of the effects of the last year;
- agricultural and farm education programs in high schools, colleges and universities;



- standards-based Civics, Health and Home Economics curriculums to promote self-governance, responsibility and self-sufficiency;
- small class sizes: hire more teachers and reduce class sizes for better public health and educational outcomes;
- neighborhood schools;
- safe routes to schools;
- school choice

We need to suspend:

- distance learning and hybrid schedules: all students deserve access to their education in the least restrictive environment;
- all scientifically unsupported and legally questionable mandates, including distance learning, masking, PCR testing and shots -- we should instead employ measures that are actually confirmed as being legal and that we also KNOW are factually safe and effective, as supported by peer-reviewed medical studies and analysis of real-world practice differences in approaches and health outcomes in varied populations;
- standardized testing — for at least 2 years — to help mitigate some of the effects of the last year (note: teaching to the test is not going to be an effective strategy for educators going back to campus and is certainly not an effective way to usher our students back into a rigorous scholarly life);
- bloated budgets for administrators and technology
- all student data mining across all grades K-12

#### **4. Real Public Health and Individual Wellbeing**

Real public health has been under attack for decades by a corporate, multinational industry that is primarily concerned with profit, not peoples' health. We have all experienced this in our interactions with the medical system. Traditional community public health resources, infrastructure and personnel have been systematically dismantled and degraded, while being captured and directed by corporate entities that have profit as their primary motive -- and not actual good public health practices.

Nevertheless, we still do have some strong remaining foundational health resources available in California and we need to be much smarter in how we support and deploy these resources. We also must stop trying to control how Californians choose to care for themselves. We need to get the government out of peoples' health decisions and let Californians be fully free and autonomous to make informed medical decisions for themselves and their families.

In devising real solutions for public health challenges, we should be guided by the following goals and principles:

- i. Do everything possible to not traumatize children or disrupt families and to maintain children's lives and routines and the lives and routines of their families.

ii. Do everything possible to maintain economic and social stability and cohesion (i.e., do not issue contradictory, shifting and impossible to understand or enforce orders and mandates).

iii. Constantly seek out new advice and information from diverse experts with divergent opinions and areas of expertise and then actually incorporate this information to develop best practices so that the state is promoting protocols that are actually effective and not harmful.

Every Californian -- every human -- has a basic fundamental right to make choices about his or her own health, with full informed consent and transparency about the potential risks and benefits of different treatments or approaches, whether one of our school children eager to get back to in-person learning, a patient in physical therapy considering the differences between a drug/pain-management regime versus alternative modalities, or a pregnant mom-to-be considering whether she wants to go with a midwife/doula approach and do a home-birth versus going to the hospital to give birth with all that entails. We must -- and we will -- do better at empowering Californians to be the masters of their own individual health and wellbeing.

#### **a. Look for Bottom-Up Solutions**

Throughout these last months, numerous prominent doctors and medical professionals around the world — many of them based here in California — have attempted to share critically important information about the Coronavirus and the best protocols for managing it. Whenever this information diverges from official CDC and WHO authority, it has been virtually impossible for doctors to even get the word out to other doctors, let alone to the broader general public. This must stop.

We have multiple demonstrably effective preventive and clinical treatments for this virus and the related symptoms and complications that can develop. These treatments have been effective in elderly and sick patients. Even when protocols are adopted by literally multiple other nations, they do not get even basic press coverage here in the USA. Worse, doctors attempting to share their work are blocked, vilified, and censored by mainstream outlets and social media and even threatened with licensure review. We know from these medical experts on the frontlines that early treatment, ozone therapy, budesonide inhalers, hydroxychloroquine, Ivermectin, high Vitamin D & C, and also zinc are all proving successful at treating even very at-risk and vulnerable patients.

As governor, I will never allow the censoring of information. Whenever there is good, solid, useful information available, I will do everything in my power to make sure it is shared broadly with the public and incorporated into how my administration is tackling any problem or challenge.

#### **b. Empower Doctors, Nurses and Other Health Care Providers to be Independent Voices**

Healthcare and the practice of medicine is constantly evolving and growing. At least that is how it is supposed to work. There are nearly 1 million doctors in the US. There are approximately 140,000 doctors in California. But fewer than half of them (only around 60,000) are actively practicing

medicine. And most of those who are practicing have nowhere near enough time in any given day to really get to know their patients or provide a comprehensive or holistic level of care.

We need to face facts: more and more Californians are receiving health care from people who are not allopathic doctors or nurses. That does not have to be a problem as long as we do everything we can to support new doctors and nurses joining the profession and also do everything possible to support the diversity of practitioners across our state who are using highly effective alternative modalities. We are all individuals with different needs; so we should let people practice and receive the health care treatments that work best for them.

### **c. Alternative Therapies for Veterans**

Now more than ever our veterans must be ensured the same standard of care as civilians. Like many Californians, veterans are turning to alternative therapies while under VA care such as therapy/service dogs, equine therapy, agri-therapy, MDMA-assisted psychotherapy, and cannabis for post-traumatic syndrome (PTSD) and traumatic brain injuries (TBI). California needs to lead the way in ensuring these therapies are financially supported, and readily available in all areas, by integrating these services into the Veterans Health Administration (VHA): The US's largest integrated health care system consisting of 152 medical centers, nearly 1,400 community-based outpatient clinics, community living centers, Vet Centers and Domiciliaries.

### **d. Rural Community Doctors, Nurses and Healers Program**

We need to ensure that every county in California has a basic level of medical and public health care. This is going to take local, state and federal resources. Within my first 100 days, I will convene a Task Force to make a set of specific policy recommendations to myself and the legislature regarding parameters for establishing a statewide program to support doctors, nurses and other healers in rural and less-populated areas of our state that suffer the greatest shortage.

### **e. Community Gardens**

It's time we make "food deserts" a thing of the past. We need neighborhood-based and school-centered community gardens in every neighborhood in this state.

I will instruct the Secretary of Education and Secretary of Natural Resources to establish a dual Secretary-level administered program to ensure that every neighborhood in the state has the resources and support for the people who live in that neighborhood to develop community gardens tied to a school or group of schools that provide opportunities for the children and families in that neighborhood who wish to participate to grow and harvest food and share in the bounty of the garden. This is a key program to enlist the participation and leadership of our veterans, service members, and their families.

Community and family gardens are essential to healthy living. For thousands of years we have grown fruits and vegetables and shared in their harvest communally. California is one of the most fertile and favorable growing regions in the world. Yet in many neighborhoods across this state, it has

become almost impossible for most residents to participate in the process of growing at least some of their own food. This must change. It will be a foundational piece of a truly healthy California populace going forward.

#### **f. Expand CalFresh Programs**

CalFresh is the California implementation of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, which provides financial assistance for purchasing food to low-income California residents.

Many low-income families simply do not have easy access to fresh produce from local grocery stores or farmers markets. We need to ensure that the program supports the provision of stores and markets where participants can actually use the financial support to purchase healthy foods.

We also need to ensure that participants have opportunities to learn how to prepare healthy meals. Many of our people and communities have lost what used to be basic common knowledge about how to grow, prepare, preserve and store certain basic foods. Under my administration, we will expand CalFresh to support a rebirth of common-sense local food production and access. Food is medicine and overall health begins with diet. It is far too difficult for too many of us in this state of incredible agricultural abundance to access good real food. This must change.

#### **g. Expand Community Centers**

We will support healthy development opportunities for parents and their children through a statewide campaign that encourages healthy eating, outdoor exercise, movement and activities by providing “Get Outdoors” grants to existing and new community centers and community groups. We will use and augment existing resources and programs wherever possible. We will also look to expand the use of community centers for job training, after school programs, etc.

#### **h. Intergenerational Day Care**

In today’s Covid world, more than ever, we are clearly seeing the care of young and old being dangerously segregated, with very limited opportunity for the two age groups to interact.

A concept known as “non-familial intergenerational interactions” is focused on the seemingly simple idea that old and young can bring new enthusiasm, energy, and much needed passing of knowledge to each other’s lives. In the last 20 years or so this concept has been increasingly picked up – particularly in the US, where more and more shared care facilities are being opened.

It’s not simply about putting a baby and toddlers’ day care center in a nursing home, however. It involves planned interactions between elders and college students, schoolchildren, or youngsters of other ages in a variety of settings. Community Centers can become the epicenter for this much needed generational revolution.

## **i. Reduce Drug Pricing and Dependency**

According to a recent survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation, 60% of Americans take at least one prescription and 79% say the cost is unreasonable. This must stop. We must advocate for more affordable therapies and for pricing transparency. I will do everything in my power to support the use of California's massive collective buying power to bring down the costs of drugs and other therapies for all Californians.

But there are limits to what we can do at the state level. And beyond drug costs, far too many Californians are simply taking way too many prescription drugs. While we absolutely need to make drugs more affordable, it's even more important that we help people reduce their overall dependency on drugs and become more fully healthy so that they can reduce their overall medical and prescription costs.

Healthcare costs consume a huge portion of California's budget. According to the California Healthcare Foundation, health spending in California equals almost \$300 billion per year, or nearly \$8,000 per person per year. We simply must do everything we can to bring down these costs and help Californians get healthier and less drug-dependent.

## **5. Durable Economic Growth**

The California economy is in free-fall. California residents are losing hope and exiting the state at unprecedented rates. The economic and social impact of Newsom's responses to Covid have been catastrophic: boarded-up storefronts, homelessness and crime worsening rapidly, increases in alcohol abuse, drug overdoses, addiction and suicide. The leading cause of death among young people in California is now suicide. We need durable economic growth to ensure that our children and generations to come have hope, opportunity, and purpose.

These unprecedented impacts are going to require unparalleled investment in order to revitalize our economy. We need leadership that spurs massive new opportunities for Californians to reinvest in ourselves and in our communities, creating a modern-day California Renaissance. In the words of the great Booker T. Washington, "It is time to cast down our buckets where we are." This investment needs to begin by utilizing several key systems that we already have in place.

### **a. Expand California's Infrastructure Bank**

The California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) was created to finance public infrastructure and private development that promote job growth, contribute to a strong economy, and improve the quality of life in California communities. But the bank has never been fully or properly funded. It is long past time to dramatically expand the IBank, increase per-project caps, and use our own in-state resources to invest in our future. Rather than spend billions of dollars in interest payments to borrow money from Wall Street, we could be borrowing from ourselves at a fraction of the cost and without any out-of-state loss of capital.

Two major reforms are required. First, we have to broaden the charter of the Ibank so that it not only funds government projects as is presently the case, but also private endeavors, including Main Street mom and pop businesses and manufacturing. Second, we also must remove the exceedingly low financing caps that prevent the Ibank from supporting any projects of real significance.

Fully and appropriately financing the bank to meet our needs will be a challenge. California is staring down the barrel at nearly \$500B in deferred maintenance on roadways with hundreds of billions more in deferred maintenance and upgrades needed across multiple sectors (schools, hospitals, water, utilities). All told, our state is likely facing somewhere around several trillion dollars in critically important infrastructure needs. There is no easy way to finance these needs. But what we are doing now to finance these needs is supremely ineffective -- wasting tens of billions of dollars every year on interest payments to Wall Street is wasteful (find out interest paid to wall street). If we finance our own projects through our own state bank, we won't charge ourselves so much in interest. So we can really get the most out of our money and make every dollar we invest in this state count for something meaningful.

Within the first 100 days of my administration, I will work with all willing members of the legislature to pass legislation to massively expand the use of the IBank to help jumpstart our economy at every level.

Whether we're talking about a young person just getting her or his start or a mom and dad who've fallen on hard times or seniors who've lost or never had any retirement savings, millions of Californians need a better way to access relatively small amounts of capital without having to pay exorbitantly high interest rates. If we structure a new California Main Street micro loan and grant program to target quick money to families and individuals with a dream and a need, we will spur a massive wave of new sustainable local economic growth, for pennies on the dollar compared to what we're paying in interest right now.

Establish an Economic Task Force from each respective county to identify the greatest local needs and help develop tailor-made responses — via seed funding, partial investments, or matching funds subsidized through the IBank. Special emphasis will be given to investments supporting housing development, addressing homelessness, expanding regenerative farming, providing carbon sequestration -- and other criteria highlighted within this document.

We need to stop spending 5% interest on our bond indebtedness to line the pockets of Wall Street and start investing our money much more efficiently and effectively within California.

## **b. Expand Use of Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs)**

EIFDs provide broad authority for local agencies to use Tax Increment Financing (TIF) through the sale of 45-year bonds to fund a variety of projects, including public capital facilities and projects of "communitywide significance." Combining expanded use of the IBank with expanded use of EIFDs will allow us to rapidly deploy an incredibly large amount of public and private capital into California's communities to support economic recovery and sustainable growth: housing that all

California families and individuals can afford, expanded child-care facilities, expanded and restored parks and outdoor community facilities, transit facilities, road repairs, parking facilities, and all the amenities that increase the quality of life in California for all citizens, for generations to come.

### **c. Axe the Gas Tax**

In 2018, the Legislature put Proposition 69 on the June statewide ballot, claiming it would protect California's gas tax revenues against the type of diversion that had occurred in the past. Then Governor Brown campaigned aggressively for the measure and it passed. However, it soon became clear that Prop 69 was just another smokescreen.

In September 2019, Governor Newsom signed an executive order that re-directed gas tax money to fund a variety of projects rather than dedicating the money to repairing and upgrading the state's broken highways and roads. We have over \$400 BILLION in deferred maintenance costs that have piled up on our state's transportation network over the years.

The horrible condition of our roads and bridges and the severe traffic congestion in all of our major metro areas means that we end up wasting a ton of money every year, patching and repairing but never keeping pace with the growing backlog of maintenance needs. This Band Aid approach to road maintenance is personally costing each and every California vehicle owner thousands of dollars each year, in the form of annual per capita dollars spent on vehicle ownership in this state nearly DOUBLE the national average. It costs the average American approximately \$7,000 to \$8,000 per year to own and operate a vehicle; but it costs the average Californian between \$13,000 to \$15,000.

Under the current political regime, Californians are suffering with the worst roadways in the nation and yet we pay the highest transportation costs and taxes. We need to be smarter -- much smarter. We must stop throwing bad money after good and start reducing our overall debt burden. And we need to stop lying to ourselves.

The real truth is that there is no way we will ever be able to make up for all the deferred maintenance costs on our roadways (or the deferred maintenance costs in any other of our major infrastructure challenge areas). In this area alone, we're looking at a greater than \$400B hole. That's nearly twice our total annual state budget. Each year, the gas tax has only been bringing in about ¼ of 1% of the total amount needed to fix our roads -- and then a significant portion of that pitifully inadequate amount has been siphoned off for other non-roadway projects!

We need to get real -- and real serious -- about the costs we face and the actual availability of resources to meet these costs. Since there's no way we're ever going to meet the entire need, we need to figure out how to prioritize at the state and local levels; craft a detailed, transparent and fair plan for covering the essential repair costs as quickly as possible; and empower our local governments to have more focused, non-divertible monies so as to meet these challenges locally.

Finally, we have to stop building infrastructure that we cannot afford to maintain. Building roads is popular but it's too easy to build them without understanding the long-term costs and consequences. It's much harder and far more expensive to maintain a road in perpetuity than it is to build it --

especially if you do not keep up regular maintenance and let little repairs build up to such an extent that the entire roadway bed must ultimately be replaced (which is exactly what's happened with literally thousands and thousands of roadway miles across our state).

Too many of our elected leaders have been misleading us for decades about these infrastructure challenges. I will not lie to you about this or anything else. We've got some seriously major challenges and there's no way we can fix them so long as our leaders keep lying to us about the real details and scale of the problems we face.

There is no easy fix to the challenge of developing the financing we need for all our backlogged infrastructure costs. But the place to start is by being honest with each other about the challenge. That's what this Contract does and that's what I will do as Governor.

#### **d. Help Cannabis Farmers — NOT the Cannabis Bureaucracy**

Since the legalization of cannabis in California, this process has proven a boon to certain savvy local businesses and economic regions. Cannabis businesses continue to open statewide, even during these last months.

But many growers, processors, retailers and whole communities continue to struggle with the stranglehold of multiple layers of often contradictory city/county/state bureaucracies, as well as all the fees and permits. Many other Californians — particularly folks with lower incomes and communities that have historically been targeted for low-level drug offenses — are locked out of the Green Renaissance altogether. There are also very serious challenges related to water use and dwindling water resources that we have to do a much better job addressing.

It is high time we support the environmentally and economically sustainable growth of this incredible home-grown industry by streamlining the process to open new legal cannabis businesses while also ensuring that we do not exacerbate our water challenges.

#### **e. Support Real Manual Work Options**

We will expand the Cal-Grant program with additional financial resources and by broadening the definitions of “vocations” and “choices.” Cal-Grants will be expanded to include trade schools and other vocational training, including guilds and future farmers programs.

Communities across the state are short on skilled tradespeople. The demand is there, the jobs are there; what's not available are the skilled workers. That will change when we make it possible for people with limited means to get the training and resources they need with zero out-of-pocket costs.

#### **e. Fast-track Business Loans for Veterans**

Many veterans have a deep yearning to own their own businesses, however, loans are hard to come by and grants are difficult to navigate if you aren't familiar with the process. This is where CalVet



Veteran Servicers can play a larger role by providing the technical support for vets to navigate these lending and grant opportunities so as to assist our veterans in launching their own businesses. Red tape, overwhelming hoop-jumping, and lack of technical assistance have become the barrier to veterans starting their own businesses. A little hand-holding can go a long way here in making an immediate and big difference in our veterans' lives.

## **6. Vibrant Communities**

Most of us want mostly the same things: safety, amenities, good neighbors, and opportunities for our children and families. Yet we've managed to create a state in which the majority of Californians are deeply frustrated with the quality of our lives and our communities.

Homelessness, traffic, road deterioration, difficulty doing business or building anything new -- our communities do not reflect our values or our dreams for our children and the future. Below is a small selection of items that collectively can begin to improve the quality of life in many of our communities. We all deserve a certain standard of living and quality of life, and we have failed to meet this standard throughout our great state.

### **a. Ensure Health Freedom**

In the words of Bob Marley, "Every man has the right to decide his own destiny." Every woman, man and child has the right to self-determine. Corporal autonomy is a life-affirming fundamental human right. Medical mandates of any kind are unconstitutional and un-American. They will have zero place in California under my administration. It seems as though folks have forgotten that the state functions as a body of the will of the people. The peoples' bodies do not belong to the state.

Citizens have the right to choose or refuse medical coverage and treatments. Moreover, all insurance companies must be permanently removed from any involvement whatsoever in medical decision-making. We must fully restore patient-doctor privilege.

### **b. Work Toward Universal Paid-Parental Leave**

I will work with all legislators and other stakeholders to figure out how we ensure that all new parents in California have sufficient paid time off to take care of their babies and themselves. It is inhumane how our society treats babies and their parents. We can and must do better.

### **c. Preserve Local Control Over Broadband Deployment**

Ensure city and county governments local control over wired broadband and wireless telecommunications infrastructure. Local communities must retain the freedom to integrate the best Broadband options for their residents. Ensure that at the federal, state and local levels tame the unnecessarily dense deployment of 4G/5G so-called "small" Wireless Telecommunications Facilities (sWTFs) in residential neighborhoods.

#### **d. Online Privacy Protection and Personal Credit**

We must stop the monetization of personal information. Everyone has a right to do business in California without having our personal information stolen and used against us by corporations or criminals — or by criminal corporations.

#### **e. Complete Streets**

“Complete Streets” create safe, comfortable multimodal transportation networks by acknowledging the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and automobile drivers of all ages and abilities.

We have been talking about this for years now. It is simple: every time we rehab a street in California we need to make it a complete street so that all users can use the public rights of way. By doing so we will;

- increase transportation choices;
- revitalize economies;
- improve return on infrastructure investments;
- improve safety for all users;
- create more opportunity for walking and bicycling to improve public health;
- improve air quality and reduce GHG

#### **f. Homelessness and a Sense of Purpose**

Providing emergency shelters and wrap-around services to those without housing will continue to be paramount. However, homeless advocates have come to realize that seldom do we reflect upon the importance of a “sense of purpose” for people lacking housing. We know that without purpose one will most likely never rise out of the grasp of homelessness. With this in mind, we need to look at implementing creative solutions, modeled on efforts like the Santa Cruz Homeless Garden Project.

The Santa Cruz Homeless Garden Project provides job training, transitional employment and support services to individuals experiencing homelessness. This dynamic employment-training program is focused on stewardship, conservation and regenerative agricultural principles; it teaches skills that truly transform the lives of those who participate and want to achieve a stable place in society.

Programs like this can be incredibly effective. In 2019, 100% of the graduates of the Santa Cruz program obtained employment, and 78% obtained housing.

We also have a new category of those who have found themselves unable to keep a roof over their heads, ever since California businesses were forced to shut-down. These are individuals who do not need a sense of purpose, but simply a job to get back on their feet. We can do this.

By implementing our statewide regenerative farming, pollinator gardens, soiling building, and forest

management systems, and thriving community centers, we will provide jobs that never before existed, and a grassroots economic groundswell.

#### **f. Veteran Outreach and Engagement**

The extraordinary toll on our state's nearly 2 million veterans and service members cannot go without mention. Now, more than six years after the Iraq/Afghanistan wars have come to an end, we can clearly see the carnage that remains: Modern warfare has produced more deaths and damage following deployment than during the actual wars themselves.

While 6,400 service members were lost in combat during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, we have now lost more than 110,000 Iraqi/Afghanistan-era veterans to suicide throughout the U.S.

In addition, throughout the Iraqi/Afghanistan wars, we killed approximately 84,000 enemy combatants, half of which are believed not to have been enemies of the state, but unlucky citizens. In addition, more than 550,000 additional civilians were killed. Many of them women and children.

Military enemies managed to kill 6,400 of our service men and women, however, reports indicate half of these individuals may actually have been killed by our own friendly fire. This is a painful specter many veterans and service members battle with every single day and this is a specter that must be addressed.

Our US veterans, their spouses and family have undergone extraordinary trauma, and now guilt, and they all deserve extraordinary attention.

For the most part, there are many health and financial programs for veterans throughout California, but these are just band-aids for the larger infliction caused by modern warfare. We should be addressing the root of all the pain and suffering that has caused such an epidemic in veteran suicides; a staggering 28 per day throughout the US.

While California does provide veteran's home loans and free education and other programs to veterans and their dependents, this does little to address the extraordinary amount of suffering, depression, and isolation.

Fortunately, some of California's biggest challenges are our vets best opportunities for recovery. Civic engagement is a huge boost to one's physical and psychological well-being, and civic engagement and purpose play a big role in our Contract with Californians. One of the most important drivers of this campaign is to encourage and promote healthy civic engagement. In order for us to address California's insurmountable challenges, now, more than ever, we need to call upon the participation and leadership of our veterans and service members. By doing so, not only will we build better communities, we will remove many veterans from the dangerous precipice of depression, stigma, and suicide, while simultaneously reviving these brave men and women's sense of purpose.

We can do this by expanding and boosting the California Department of Veterans Affairs' Local Interagency Network Coordinator (LINC) programs through their respective regions so as to enlist

the leadership and participation of our veterans, and service members, at the local level. The focus will be on California's community and pollinator gardens, regenerative farming, forest restoration and cultural burning, and soil regeneration programs throughout the state. California's The LINC can play a more dynamic role in connecting and advocating for veterans, military service members, and their families to participate in such programs; providing a pathway towards a more productive and rewarding lifestyle.

### **g. Police Reform**

Many Californians find themselves existing within the law's authority but outside its protection. Few will disagree there is a frayed relationship between police forces and certain segments of their communities, and that there is a deep need to transform a change in culture, accountability, training, policies and practices.

Again, we can and must do better. We hear this from civilians as well as from within law enforcement. It's time to address the valid concerns that motivate today's police reform movement, and focus on structural approaches to reforming California policing.

The Contract with Californians emphasizes police officers' obligation to treat people with dignity and respect, behave in a neutral, unbiased way, and exhibit an intention to help. In addition, by rebuilding the public's trust, this will ensure the safety of our Law Enforcement. Every day they and their families are under great pressure due to the dangers of the job. We must:

- require mandatory malpractice insurance be carried by officers, just as with lawyers and doctors; → "qualified immunity" eliminated;
- police unions can be held liable for shielding bad cops;
- laws regarding misconduct to change standard from "willfulness" to "recklessness"
- mandatory dashboard and body cams;
- make chokeholds illegal;
- whistle-blower protections expanded within the active police force or for those enrolled in a police academy;
- consider adding a degree requirement for service within the state of California (apparently this is a common requirement in several other countries already) and at the very least, mandate intensive training requirements to maintain service on the force;
- local municipalities will be held liable for officer's unconstitutional actions.

## **7. New Civic Engagement**

Studies have shown that civic participation not only builds social capital, but improves one's health. It has been found that engaging in meaningful civic activities improves the overall well-being of a community, as well as develop a deeper sense of purpose within individuals.

Across the state, I am hearing, Californians are yearning for a sense of purpose now more than ever, and to ultimately know that their involvement can make a substantial difference. Most Californian's don't associate civic engagement with physical and mental health, but it does play a significant role.

Volunteering is a common form of civic participation that can yield health benefits, improve psychological well-being and positive emotional health. Community involvement also increases social resources like having friends to call upon during times of need. This also alleviates levels of anxiety and depressive symptoms.

For example, individuals who are involved in community gardening may form a sense of neighborhood pride, experience an increased appreciation for their neighborhood and be more motivated to get involved in community life, and also increase community members' access to healthy foods.

In this Contract With Californians we are creating different strategies to promote civic participation. It is time for Californians to participate in the reweaving of the frayed fabric of our communities and for our state to step up and expand and integrate these endeavors.

#### **a. Implement Rank Choice Voting (RCV)**

Too often, candidates win elections despite being strongly disliked by a majority of voters. With Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), if no candidate has a majority among voters' first choices, the candidates in last place will be eliminated one-by-one. If a voter's first choice is eliminated, their vote instantly goes to their second choice. This way, the ultimate tally determines which of the top candidates has real majority support. RCV:

- discourages negative campaigning,
- provides more choice for voters,
- saves money,
- promotes more moderate and thoughtful representation,
- minimizes strategic voting, and
- increases participation from military and overseas voters.

#### **b. Expand CaliforniaVolunteers and California Conservation Corps**

Every person who turns 18 in California should have an opportunity to do one to two years of public service. CaliforniaVolunteers coordinates volunteer activities across the state but there is tremendous room for expansion and improvement of the program. The CCC is a beloved state agency that enrolls young men and women, ages 18 to 25, for a year of natural resource work and emergency response.

The CCC receives only a \$2.5 million annual allocation to complete forest health projects as part of the state's efforts to reduce GHG emissions. In light of the severe and growing fire risks and the overwhelming need to give more meaning and purpose to the lives of California's young people who have no regular school or work opportunities, we must increase funding for these programs.

We will expand the work and funding for both CaliforniaVolunteers and the California Conservation Corps (CCC), providing improved pay and benefits as well as expanded opportunities to participants. The work of CaliforniaVolunteers and the CCC will include:

- programs to support the growth of living soils on farmland and natural landscapes,
- more robust forest restoration and fire suppression efforts,
- development of pollinator migratory zones, and
- neighborhood and school-based organic gardens, and composting sites.

### **c. Advocate for Federal and California Recognition of All Native American Tribes**

There are over 100 Native American Tribes in California that have yet to receive Federal recognition. This is long overdue. As a co-equal sovereign state, we must do everything in our power to push for recognition of all tribes in California.

Federal recognition allows Native Americans access to housing, healthcare, education and food, without the burden of taxes which, as residents of sovereign nations, they should not have to pay. My administration will work to ensure the recognition of all sovereign nations within California and to increase opportunities for land stewardship projects on native lands and the reclamation of lost indigenous lands.

### **d. Ensure Sufficient Polling Places and Fair and Fully Monitored Elections**

California must do better to ensure that everybody who is registered can vote easily, securely and fairly. We need sufficient funding for polling places, poll workers, and poll worker training and oversight in all neighborhoods and precincts.

What we have seen in recent elections has been just an absolute mess and a disgrace. We can and must do better. This is fundamentally a problem of lack of good management and lack of good quality control.

We know what to do:

- get politics and politicians out of the business of managing elections,
- ensure adequate public funding for elections,
- work to eliminate or at least significantly reduce corporate political spending,
- work to ensure full transparency for all political spending.
- Remove participation barriers

### **e. Make Voting Day an Official State Holiday**

We need to ensure that on whatever day statewide and local elections occur, every person in California who is registered to vote actually has an opportunity to do so. Election Day will be a state holiday and all employers will be prohibited from penalizing employees in any way for missing any amount of work on Election Day in order to complete the act of voting.

## Conclusion

I offer the Contract with Californians to empower all of us to rebuild our lives and our state. Under my Contract with Californians, there is no such thing as a “non-essential” worker or a non-essential person. Everyone is essential. And our children are especially essential. The Contract with Californians weaves together many of the best ideas from across the political spectrum, to focus on a new foundation of common purpose and ideals for the people of California.

This Contract will guide our work, like that red star on our state flag; it is my Promise to You. My actions and leadership will always reflect my belief that building a state and future our children can flourish and thrive in is worth working and fighting for alongside you, the good people of California.

*"Ad astra per aspera."*